

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L COTONOU 1705

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TAGS: PFOR, US, AO, DM

SUBJ: ANGOLAN RECOGNITION

REF A. STATE 265503 B. COTONOU A-80

1. TOOK ADVANTAGE OF ONE OF MY RARE AUDIENCES WITH FORNMIN ALLADAYE YESTERDAY TO RAISE ANGOLAN PROBLEM. MADE DETAILED PRESENTATION ALONG LINES DEPT'S INSTRUCTIONS, WITH SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON TERRITORIAL CONTROL FACTS, HAVOC WROUGHT BY LARGE SCALE INTRODUCTION OF SOVIET ARMS, OAU PRES AMIN'S SHOWDOWN WITH USSR OVER ANGOLA, AND DESIRABILITY OF FAVORING PEACEFUL ACCOMMODATION AMONG COMPETING GROUPS REPRESENTING THE GREAT BULK OF THE POPULATION. NOTING WITH SYMPATHY OAU POSITION AND SUGGESTION CONTAINED ALLADAYE'S OWN PRESS CONFERENCE HERE LAST WEEK (WHEN MPLA DEL WAS HERE) THAT DAHOMEY WAS NEUTRAL AND THAT IT FAVORED UNITY BY ACCOMMODATION AMONG GROUPS (REF B), I SAID USG COULD FIND NO VALID BASIS FOR MINORITY MPLA TO CLAIM TO BE SOLE GOVT OF ANGOLA. IN VIEW GRAVE RISK OF FURTHER CIVIL WAR, WE THOUGHT IT WISE FOR ALL GOVTS TO PROCEED CAUTIOUSLY BEFORE EXTENDING RECOGNITION.

2. ALLADAYE, APPARENTLY ASTONISHED THAT I SHOULD BRING UP THIS PROBLEM, REPLIED RATHER FEEBLY THAT DAHOMEAN POSITION WAS THE (VAGUE) ONE HE HAD SET FORTH IN PRESS CONFERENCE AND HE IMPLIED THAT HIS GOVT WOULD GO ALONG WITH OAU. HE ADDED: "YOU DON'T NEED TO TELL US ANYTHING ABOUT DEALING WITH THE
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SOVIET UNION. WE ALREADY KNOW."

3. I ALSO REVIEWED ANGOLMN PROBLEMS AGAIN TODAY WITH ZAIRIAN AMB WHOSE MAIN OBJECTIVE HERE IN RECENT MONTHS HAS BEEN TO PERSUADE DAHOMEAN GOVT TO DROP ITS ENTHUSIASTIC SUPPORT FOR MPLA. ON BASIS HIS LATEST TALKS WITH PRES KEREKOU AND FORNMIN DURING PAST FORTNIGHT, HIS ASSESSMENT IS THAT DAHOMEY IS LIKELY TO BE ONE OF THE FEW AFRICAN GOVTS THAT WILL BUCK THE OAU POSITION AND STICK WITH THE MPLA.

4. SO FAR AS WE KNOW DAHOMEAN GOVT HAS NOT YET TAKEN ANY OFFICIAL ACTION ON ANGOLA. IN EDITORIAL THIS MORNING THE GOVT NEWSPAPER PROFESSED THAT DAHOMEY WAS NEUTRAL IN INTER-GROUP RIVALRY, BUT AT SAME TIME REINFORCED IMPRESSION IT IS BACKING MPLA. CITING THE HISTORY OF THE CONGO (ZAIRE) AND NIGERIA AS PREVIOUS EXAMPLES, EDITORIAL NOTES THAT WHENEVER A LARGE TERRITORIAL AND ECONOMIC ENTITY ACHIEVES INDEPENDENCE, "INTERNATIOAL IMPERIALISM" RUSHES IN TO FOMENT TROUBLE, PROVOKE DIVISIONS OR TO LAUNCH SEPARATIST MOVEMENTS. IN ANGOLA, WHILE THE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS KILL EACH OTHER OFF, AMERICA'S GULF OIL AND FRANCE'S ERAP CONTINUE TO PUMP OIL IN CABINDA. SINCE PORTUGAL, UNLIKE THE OTHER COLONIAL POWERS, WAS A POOR COUNTRY, IT HAD TO BRING FOREIGN CAPITAL INTO ITS COLONIES. THEREFORE THE REASONS FOR FOREIGN INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA ARE MULTIPLE AND DIVERSE. HERE MORE THAN ELSEWHERE, THE CAPITALIST COUNTRIES OF AMERICAN AND EUROPE HAVE REASON TO BE UNITED IN A SINGLE BLOC. TO FACE UP TO THIS UNITED BLOC, ANGOLANS MUST UNITE INTO ONE POWERFUL BULWARD, THE CAMP OF THE LABORING MASSES AND PEASANTS. DAOMEY'S MARXISTS-LENINISTS ARE REMINDED THAT ACCORDING TO COMMUNIST THEORY THEY MUST FIGHT TO PROMOTE THE DEVELOPMENT OF CLASS CONSCIOUSNESS AMONG THE WORKING MASSES OF THE COLONIES.

5. DAHOMEAN MEDIA HAVE LOUDLY SUPPORTED MPLA FOR A VERY LONG TIME. RADIO TODAY CONTINUES TO BLARE OUT VERSION OF ANGOLAN EVENTS THAT COULD HAVE BEEN WRITTEN IN SOVIET EMBASSY.

6. COMMENT: VISIBLE SIGNS SUGGEST DAHOMEAN GOVT WILL ACT SOON TO RECOGNIZE MPLA, UNLESS SOVIET POSITION ERODES SO CATASTROPHICALLY THAT DAHOMEY WOULD FIND ITSELF WITH VERY LITTLE CONFIDENTIAL

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COMPANY. ODDLY ENOUGH NO TRACES OF CHICOM ADVOCACY ON THIS ISSUE HAVE COME TO LIGHT IN COTONOU.
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